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## **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **St. Paul man pleads guilty to distributing methamphetamine**

Methamphetamine is one of the most popular illegal drugs in Minnesota, according to the Hazelden Foundation, and federal officials continue to stop those distributing this dangerous and addictive drug, as they have done with a St. Paul man who pleaded guilty today.

Jorge Rios, 39, pleaded guilty May 12 in federal court to one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and one count of possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. Rios entered his plea in Minneapolis before United States District Court Chief Judge James Rosenbaum. Rios was indicted on Feb. 20, 2008.

According to his plea agreement, Rios knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute 500 or more grams of a substance containing methamphetamine on Jan. 30, 2008. Rios also agreed that on Jan. 30 he knowingly possessed a .22-caliber submachine gun in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration affidavit, Rios sold 1 ounce of methamphetamine during an "arranged controlled buy" in January 2008. St. Paul Police executed a search warrant of Rios's person and residence on Jan. 30. Officers arrested Rios following a traffic stop, and found approximately \$10,000 in cash, a bullet and a bottle of Oxycontin on him.

In his vehicle, police recovered a backpack containing a loaded .22-caliber machine gun with laser sight and banana clip; a bag containing approximately 102 grams of methamphetamine; a bottle containing approximately 354 grams of methamphetamine; and other drug materials such as baggies, a digital scale and a strainer. Behind the driver's seat, officers found five additional rifles, which were later determined to be stolen.

During a search of Rios's residence, officers recovered approximately 155 grams of methamphetamine, along with additional ammunition.

Rios faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison on the methamphetamine charge and five years on the firearms charge. Judge Rosenbaum will determine Rios's sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the St. Paul Police Department, the DEA and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffery M. Bryan.